

COMMODITY ORDER SYSTEM AND COMMODITY ORDER METHOD IN COMMODITY ORDER SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a commodity order system capable of putting in an order for a commodity via an Internet from a user terminal.

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2. Description of the Related Art

Conventionally, as a system for selling a commodity, for example, a system for selling a commodity by mail order by using a communication device such as an Internet, which is disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 11-53444, is known.

According to such a communication system, a seller of a commodity sets up a home page (i.e., a web page) by oneself and provides the information with regard to a commodity, a charge and the like and a procedure for ordering the commodity, paying the charge and the like to a user of the Internet (i.e., a customer). Then, if the ordering procedure is completed, the seller of the commodity will distribute the ordered commodity to a customer via a distributing company.

However, according to such a mail order system, a seller of a commodity does not meet a customer with each other in general, so that it is difficult for the both of the seller and the customer to judge whether they are reliable or not. Accordingly, this has involved many problems such that, for example, a commodity different from one that the customer

ordered has been delivered to the customer, the commodity that the customer pay the charge for has not been delivered to the customer and the customer does not pay the charge even he or she receives the commodity.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been made taking the foregoing problem into consideration, an object of the invention is to provide a commodity order system and a commodity order method in this 10 commodity order system capable of trading a commodity in safety and certainly even through a mail order system.

In one aspect of the present invention, a commodity order system is provided with: a user terminal connected to a network; a commodity selling office site connected to the network and is provided with a 15 commodity selling office server; and an electronic check managing site connected to the network and provided with an electronic check managing server and an account information database for accumulating information including account information of a user who uses the user terminal; wherein the user terminal is provided with: a device for having 20 an access to the commodity selling office site via the network and obtaining the information including a charge of a commodity desired by the user; a device for transmitting check issuing demanding information to the electronic check managing server via the network to demand the electronic check managing server to issue the electronic check data 25 corresponding to the obtained charge of the commodity; and a commodity ordering device for transmitting the electronic check data transmitted from the electronic check managing server, and commodity

ordering information for ordering a commodity corresponding to the electronic check data to the commodity selling office server site via the network; the electronic check managing server is provided with: a credit judging device for checking the credit of the user who uses the user
5 terminal by referring to the account information database when the electronic check managing server receives the check issuing demanding information transmitted from the user terminal; and a check data transmitting device for creating the electronic check data, of which issuing is demanded, when the credit judging device judges that there is
10 no problem with respect to the credit of the user, and transmitting the electronic check data to the user terminal via the network; the commodity selling office server is provided with: a commodity distribution information transmitting device for transmitting the information indicating that the ordered commodity will be distributed to
15 the user terminal via the network in the case that the distribution information transmitting device receives the electronic check data and the commodity order information transmitted from the user terminal.

According to this aspect, a user has an access to a commodity selling site via a network from a user terminal so that he or she is capable
20 of obtaining the information including the charge of a commodity desired by the user. Then, the information demanding to issue a check is transmitted from the user terminal to a server for managing an electronic check via the network to demand to issue electronic check data in response to the obtained commodity's charge. In the next place, in the
25 case that the server for managing the electronic check receives the information demanding to issue the check transmitted from the user terminal, the server judges the reliability of the user who uses the user

terminal by referring to an account information database. Then, if it is judged that there is no problem with respect to the user's reliability, electronic check data demanded to be issued is created so as to be transmitted to the user terminal via the network. In the next place, the 5 electronic check data transmitted from the server for managing the electronic check, and commodity ordering information for putting in an order for the commodity in response to this electronic check data are transmitted from the user terminal to a commodity selling office server via the network. In the case that the commodity selling office server receives 10 the electronic check data and the commodity order information transmitted from the user terminal, the commodity selling server transmits the information indicating that the ordered commodity will be delivered to the user terminal via the network. Thus, a credit check for the user is performed upon putting in an order for the commodity, so that 15 it is possible to trade a commodity in safety and certainly.

In another aspect of the commodity order system of the present invention, the commodity distribution information transmitting device of the commodity selling office server has an access to the electronic check managing site, judges the validity of the electronic check by referring to 20 the account information database and distributes the ordered commodity to the user terminal via the network if the commodity distribution information transmitting device judges that the electronic check is valid.

According to this aspect, upon putting in an order for a commodity, the commodity selling office server also judges the validity of 25 the electronic check data. As a result, the reliability of the user is checked doubly, so that it is possible to further improve the safety and the certainty of the commodity trading.

In further aspect of the commodity order system of the present invention, the electronic check managing site is provided with: a selling office information database for accumulating the information with regard to the commodity selling office site; the check issuing demanding information includes the information with regard to the commodity selling office site; the electronic check managing server is provided with a selling office register judging device for judging whether the information with regard to the commodity selling office site transmitted from the user terminal, is registered in the selling office information database or not in the case that the electronic check managing server receives the check issuing demanding information transmitted from the user terminal; and a check data transmitting device of the electronic check managing server creates the electronic check data, of which issuing is demanded, in the case that the selling office register judging device judges that the information with regard to the commodity selling office site is registered, and transmits the electronic check data to the user terminal via the network.

According to this aspect, the reliability of the selling office is also checked upon putting an order for a commodity, so that it is possible to further improve the safety and the certainty of the commodity trading.

In further aspect of the commodity order system of the present invention, the user terminal is provided with a device for transmitting the information indicating the payment of the charge of the commodity to the commodity selling office server via the network in the case that the user terminal receives the information indicating that the commodity will be distributed, which is transmitted from the commodity selling office server.

According to this aspect, the user terminal transmits the payment of the charge of the commodity after confirming the commodity distribution information.

In further aspect of the commodity order system of the present invention, the commodity selling office server is provided with: a device for transmitting payment demanding information to the electronic check managing server via the network in the case that the commodity distribution information transmitting device transmits the information indicating that the commodity will be distributed to the user terminal; and the electronic check managing server is provided with a device for performing an electronic payment by referring to the account information database and the selling office information database on the basis of the electronic check data in the case that the electronic check managing server receives the payment demanding information transmitted from the commodity selling office server.

According to this aspect, an electronic payment becomes available in a commodity trading via the network.

In further aspect of the commodity order system of the present invention, the electronic check data includes the information of the charge of the commodity and the information with regard to the user terminal.

According to this aspect, the user information is informed by the electronic check data. Therefore, the certainty of the commodity trading is improved.

In further aspect of the commodity order system of the present invention, the commodity selling office server is provided with: a device for transmitting payment demanding information to the electronic check managing server via the network in the case that the commodity

distribution information transmitting device transmits the information indicating that the commodity will be distributed to the user terminal; and the electronic check managing server is provided with a device for performing an electronic payment by referring to the account information 5 database and the selling office information database on the basis of the electronic check data in the case that the electronic check managing server receives the payment demanding information transmitted from the commodity selling office server; the payment demanding information includes the information with regard to the electronic check data and the 10 commodity selling office site.

According to this aspect, the safety of the electronic payment is improved.

In further aspect of the commodity order system of the present invention, the commodity ordering device of the user terminal transmits 15 distribution address information showing a distribution address of the commodity to the commodity selling office server together with the electronic check data and the commodity order information via the network.

According to this aspect, in ordering a commodity, a distribution 20 address can be decided.

In further aspect of the commodity order system of the present invention, the commodity selling office server is provided with a device for transmitting the information indicating the distributing instruction of the ordered commodity to the user who uses the user terminal to the 25 distributing server via the network.

According to this aspect, the user can confirm a distributing instruction by the user terminal. Therefore, the certainty of the commodity trading is improved.

In further aspect of the commodity order system of the present invention, the commodity selling office server is provided with: a device for transmitting the information indicating the distributing instruction of the ordered commodity to the user who uses the user terminal to the distributing server via the network, and the electronic check managing site is provided with: a distributing company information database for accumulating the information with regard to the distributing company site; the check issuing demanding information includes the information with regard to the distributing company site; the electronic check managing server is provided with a distributing company register judging device for judging whether the information with regard to the distributing company site transmitted from the user terminal is registered in the distributing company information database or not in the case that the electronic check managing server receives the check issuing demanding information transmitted from the user terminal; and a check data transmitting device of the electronic check managing server creates the electronic check data, of which issuing is demanded, in the case that the distributing company register judging device judges that the information with regard to the distributing company site is registered, and transmits the electronic check data to the user terminal via the network.

According to this aspect, the reliability of the distributing company is also checked upon putting an order for a commodity, so that it is possible to further improve the safety and the certainty of the commodity trading.

In further aspect of the commodity order system of the present invention, the commodity selling office server is provided with a device for transmitting the information indicating the distributing instruction of the ordered commodity to the user who uses the user terminal to the 5 distributing server via the network, the distribution instruction of the commodity includes commodity information corresponding to the commodity order information and distribution address information of the commodity; and the distributing server is provided with a device for determining at least distributing date and time of the commodity on the 10 basis of the commodity information and the distribution address information and instructing the distribution of the commodity.

According to this aspect, distributing date and time of the commodity can be decided automatically. Therefore, the certainty of the commodity trading is improved.

15 In further aspect of the commodity order system of the present invention, the commodity selling office server is provided with a device for transmitting the information indicating the distributing instruction of the ordered commodity to the user who uses the user terminal to the distributing server via the network, wherein the distributing server is 20 provided with: a device for determining a situation of the distribution of the commodity; and a device for transmitting the information indicating that the distribution of the commodity has been completed to the commodity selling office server via the network in the case that the device for determining the situation of the distribution determines that the 25 distribution of the commodity has been completed.

According to this aspect, it is possible to sequentially get hold of a situation with respect to the distribution of the foregoing commodity.

In further aspect of the present invention, the commodity order method in a commodity order system is provided with: a user terminal connected to a network; a commodity selling office site connected to the network and is provided with a commodity selling office server; and an electronic check managing site connected to the network and is provided with an electronic check managing server and an account information database for accumulating the information including account information of a user who uses the user terminal, the method is provided with the processes of: having an access to the commodity selling office site via the network from the user terminal and obtaining the information including a charge of a commodity desired by the user; transmitting the check issuing demanding information from the user terminal to the electronic check managing server via the network to demand the electronic check managing server to issue the electronic check data corresponding to the obtained charge of the commodity; and checking the credit of the user who uses the user terminal by referring to the account information database in the electronic check managing server when the electronic check managing server receives the check issuing demanding information transmitted from the user terminal; and creating the electronic check data, of which issuing is demanded in the electronic check managing server, when the credit judging process judges that there is no problem with respect to the credit of the user, and transmitting the electronic check data from the electronic check managing server to the user terminal via the network; transmitting the electronic check data transmitted from the electronic check managing server, and commodity ordering information for ordering a commodity corresponding to the electronic check data from the user terminal to the commodity selling office server

site via the network; and transmitting the information indicating that the ordered commodity will be distributed from the commodity selling office server to the user terminal via the network.

According to this aspect, the user of the selling office is also
5 checked upon putting an order for a commodity, so that it is possible to further improve the safety and the certainty of the commodity trading.

In further aspect of the commodity order method in the commodity order system of the present invention, the commodity distribution information transmitting process has an access to the electronic check
10 managing site, judges the validity of the electronic check by referring to the account information database and distributes the ordered commodity to the user terminal via the network if the commodity distribution information transmitting process judges that the electronic check is valid.

According to this aspect, upon putting in an order for a commodity, the commodity selling office server also judges the validity of the electronic check data. As a result, the reliability of the user is checked doubly, so that it is possible to further improve the safety and the certainty of the commodity trading.

In further aspect of the commodity order method in the commodity order system of the present invention, the electronic check managing site is provided with: a selling office information database for accumulating the information with regard to the commodity selling office site; the check issuing demanding information includes the information with regard to the commodity selling office site; the electronic check managing server is
25 provided with a selling office register judging process of judging whether the information with regard to the commodity selling office site transmitted from the user terminal is registered in the selling office

information database or not; and the check data transmitting process creates the electronic check data, of which issuing is demanded, in the case that the selling office register judging process judges that the information with regard to the commodity selling office site is registered, 5 and transmits the electronic check data to the user terminal via the network.

According to this aspect, the reliability of the selling office is also checked upon putting an order for a commodity, so that it is possible to further improve the safety and the certainty of the commodity trading.

10 In further aspect of the commodity order method in the commodity order system of the present invention, wherein the commodity order method in a commodity order system is provided with a process of transmitting the information indicating the payment of the charge of the commodity from the user terminal to the commodity selling office server via the network in the case that the user terminal receives the information indicating that the commodity will be distributed, which is transmitted from the commodity selling office server.

15 According to this aspect, the safety of the commodity trading is improved.

20 In further aspect of the commodity order method in the commodity order system of the present invention, wherein the commodity order method in a commodity order system is provided with the processes of: transmitting the payment demanding information from the commodity selling office server to the electronic check managing server via the network in the case that the commodity distribution information transmitting process transmits the information indicating that the commodity will be distributed to the user terminal; and performing an

5 electronic payment by referring to the account information database and the selling office information database on the basis of the electronic check data in the electronic check managing server in the case that the electronic check managing server receives the payment demanding information transmitted from the commodity selling office server.

According to this aspect, the certainty of the commodity trading is improved.

10 In further aspect of the commodity order method in the commodity order system of the present invention, wherein the commodity order process transmits distribution address information showing a distribution address of the commodity to the commodity selling office server together with the electronic check data and the commodity order information via the network.

15 According to this aspect, the certainty of the commodity trading is improved.

20 In further aspect of the commodity order method in the commodity order system of the present invention, wherein the commodity order system is provided with a distributing company site connected to a network and including a distributing server; wherein the method is provided with a process of transmitting the information indicating the distributing instruction of the ordered commodity to the user who uses the user terminal from the commodity selling office server to the distributing server via the network.

25 According to this aspect, the certainty of the commodity trading is improved.

In further aspect of the commodity order method in the commodity order system of the present invention, wherein the commodity order

system is provided with a distributing company site connected to a network and including a distributing server; wherein the method is provided with a process of transmitting the information indicating the distributing instruction of the ordered commodity to the user who uses
5 the user terminal from the commodity selling office server to the distributing server via the network, wherein the electronic check managing site is provided with a distributing company information database for accumulating the information with regard to the distributing company site; the check issuing demanding information includes the
10 information with regard to the distributing company site; wherein the electronic check managing server is provided with a distributing company register judging process of judging whether the information with regard to the distributing company site transmitted from the user terminal is registered in the distributing company information database or not; and
15 the check data transmitting process creates the electronic check data, of which issuing is demanded, by referring to the account information database in the case that the distributing company register judging process judges that the information with regard to the distributing company site is registered, and transmits the electronic check data to the
20 user terminal via the network.

According to this aspect, the reliability of the distributing company is also checked upon putting an order for a commodity, so that it is possible to further improve the safety and the certainty of the commodity trading.

25 In further aspect of the commodity order method in the commodity order system of the present invention, wherein the commodity order system is provided with a distributing company site connected to a

network and including a distributing server; wherein the method is provided with a process of transmitting the information indicating the distributing instruction of the ordered commodity to the user who uses the user terminal from the commodity selling office server to the 5 distributing server via the network, wherein the information indicating the distribution instruction of the commodity includes commodity information corresponding to the commodity order information and distribution address information of the commodity; and the distributing server is provided with a process of determining at least distributing date and time 10 of the commodity on the basis of the commodity information and the distribution address information and instructing the distribution of the commodity.

According to this aspect, the certainty of the commodity trading is improved.

15 In further aspect of the commodity order method in the commodity order system of the present invention, wherein the commodity order system is provided with a distributing company site connected to a network and including a distributing server; wherein the method is provided with a process of transmitting the information indicating the 20 distributing instruction of the ordered commodity to the user who uses the user terminal from the commodity selling office server to the distributing server via the network, wherein the distributing server is provided with the processes of: determining a situation of the distribution of the commodity; and transmitting the information indicating that the 25 distribution of the commodity has been completed from the distributing server to the commodity selling office server via the network in the case

that the distribution situation determining process determines that the distribution of the commodity has been completed.

According to this aspect, the certainty of the commodity trading is improved.

5 In further aspect of the commodity order method in the commodity order system of the present invention, wherein the commodity order system is provided with a distributing company site connected to a network and including a distributing server; wherein the method is provided with a process of transmitting the information indicating the
10 distributing instruction of the ordered commodity to the user who uses the user terminal from the commodity selling office server to the distributing server via the network, wherein the distributing server is provided with the processes of: determining a distributing situation of the commodity; transmitting the information indicating that the distribution
15 of the commodity has been completed from the distributing server to the electronic check managing server via the network in the case that it is determined that the distribution of the commodity has been completed by the distributing situation determining process.

According to this aspect, the certainty of the commodity trading is
20 improved.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagram for illustrating a schematic constitution of a commodity order system according to an embodiment of the present
25 invention; and

FIG. 2 is a flow chart for showing the operation of the commodity order system according to the embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be explained below with reference to the drawings.

5 FIG. 1 illustrates a schematic constitution of a commodity order system 100 according to an embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 1, the commodity order system 100 is roughly configured by a user terminal 1, a commodity selling office site 2, an electronic check managing site 3 and a distributing company site 4. Alternatively, the user 10 terminal 1, the commodity selling office site 2, the electronic check managing site 3 and the distributing company site 4 are connected to a network 5, respectively. The network 5 is a communication device for the use of a public circuit or a dedicated circuit and it may be a wired network or a wireless network. According to the present embodiment, the network 15 5 is described as an Internet 5. Additionally, as shown in FIG. 1, a plurality of the user terminals 1, a plurality of the commodity selling office sites 2, and a plurality of the distributing company sites 4 are connected to a network 5, respectively.

At first, respective components of the commodity order system 100 20 according to the present embodiment will be described.

The user terminal 1 is provided with a monitor, a storage device, a key board, a mouse and the like. Further, the user terminal 1 is capable of receiving the service of WWW by using an application program referred to as a WWW (World Wide Web) browser. For example, the user terminal 25 1 has an access to the commodity selling office site 2 via the Internet 5, so that user terminal 1 is capable of obtaining the commodity information with regard to the mail order in an HTML (Hypertext Markup Language)

and displaying its home page on a monitor. This commodity information includes the information such as an appearance of the commodity, a name thereof, a charge thereof, a guarantee period thereof and the like. Alternatively, the user terminal 1 is capable of obtaining a commodity 5 selling office identifying code for identifying the commodity selling office site 2 and a distributing company identifying code for identifying the distributing company site 4 together with the commodity information.

Alternatively, a user who uses the user terminal 1 selects a desired commodity among the commodity information obtained from the 10 commodity selling office site 2, so that the user is capable of making a demand for issuing the electronic check data corresponding to the charge of the commodity on the electronic check managing site 3. On the occasion of such demanding, the user terminal 1 has a function to transmit the information of the commodity's charge and a user terminal 15 identifying code to the electronic check managing site 3 via the Internet 5. Alternatively, on the occasion of such demanding, the user terminal 1 is capable of transmitting the commodity selling office identifying code and the distributing company identifying code. An electronic check managing server 3a described below of the electronic check managing site 3 will 20 transmit the electronic check data to the user terminal 1 which demands to issue the electronic check data after performing a predetermined credit check with respect to this demand. Then, if the user orders a desired commodity, the user terminal 1 will transmit this electronic check data together with the commodity order information to the commodity selling 25 office site 2 via the Internet 5. This commodity order information includes the information such as the commodity code, the number of the commodity and the like. In this case, the user terminal 1 is also capable

of transmitting distribution address information for showing an address of distribution of the commodity (for example, an address of the user, a name of the user and the like) to the commodity selling office site 2.

The commodity selling office site 2 is a WWW site, in which the commodity selling office provides a mail order service on the Internet 5 and it is provided with a commodity selling office server 2a, a commodity selling price database 2b and a name master database 2c.

The commodity selling price database 2b associates the information with respect to a commodity code, a name of a commodity, a specification thereof, a charge thereof, a guarantee period thereof, with or without of a business trip, with or without of trade-in, a period of cooling off, the number of sales and the like with each other for every commodity and accumulates (registers) them. The commodity code intends to identify the commodities and it is added for every commodity individually. These information are transmitted to the user terminal 1 via the Internet 5 by the request from the user terminal 1. The name master database 2c associates the information with respect to the commodity selling office identifying code and the name of the commodity selling office or the like with each other to accumulate (register) them.

The commodity selling office server 2a controls the transmission and the reception of various information between the user terminal 1, the electronic check managing site 3 and the distributing company site 4. Specifically, the commodity selling office server 2a has a function to provide the commodity information with respect to the mail order service to the user terminal 1 via the Internet 5. Additionally, the commodity selling office server 2a is also capable of transmitting payment demanding information to the electronic check managing site 3 via the Internet 5 to

make a demand for paying the ordered commodity on the electronic check managing site 3. This payment demanding information includes the electronic check data transmitted from the user terminal 1 and the commodity selling office identifying code.

5 Alternatively, the commodity selling office server 2a has a function to transmit the information for indicating the distribution instruction of the ordered commodity to the user who uses the user terminal 1, to the distributing company site 4 via the Internet 5. This information for showing the distribution instruction includes the information of the 10 ordered commodity and the distribution address information of the ordered commodity. This distribution address information is not needed to be transmitted from the user terminal 1. In other words, the commodity selling office server 2a may be constituted so that the commodity selling office server 2a obtains the distribution address 15 information from an account information database 3b described below of the electronic check managing site 3 on the basis of a user terminal identifying code included in the electronic check data transmitted from the user terminal 1.

 The electronic check managing site 3 serves as a backbone of the 20 commodity order system 100 and intends to secure the safety in the commodity trading by using the network. The electronic check managing site 3 is provided with the electronic check managing server 3a, the account information database 3b, a selling office information database 3c and a distributing company information database 3d. Additionally, as 25 shown in FIG. 1, the electronic check managing site 3 is connected to an electronic paying system 6 of a banking establishment and an electronic paying system 7 of a credit loan company via the communication links.

The electronic paying system 6 of the banking establishment and the electronic paying system 7 of the credit loan company will pay the charge by the instruction from the electronic check managing site 3.

The account information database 3b associates the information
5 with respect to the user terminal identifying code for identifying the user terminal 1, a name of the user, a sex thereof, an address thereof, a telephone number thereof, a name of his or her trading bank, an account number thereof, an outstanding amount thereof, the information for the user from that bank, a name of his or her trading credit loan company, its
10 credit card number and the information for the user from that credit loan company or the like with each other for every user who makes a contract for using the commodity order system 100 and then, the account information database 3b accumulates (register) them.

The selling office information database 3c associates the information with respect to the commodity selling office identifying code, a name of the selling office, an address of the selling office, a telephone number thereof, a trading bank thereof and an account number thereof or the like with each other for every commodity selling office which makes a contract for using the commodity order system 100 to accumulate
20 (register) them.

The distributing company information database 3d associates the information with respect to the distributing company identifying code, a name of the distributing company, an address of the distributing company, a telephone number thereof, a trading bank thereof and its account number or the like with each other for every distributing company which makes a contract for using the commodity order system
25 100 to accumulate (register) them.

The electronic check managing server 3a controls the transmission and the reception of various information among the user terminal 1, the selling office site 2 and the distributing company site 4 and performs a credit check of a person who uses the commodity order system 100.

5 Specifically, in the case that the user terminal 1 demands to issue the electronic check, the electronic check managing server 3a has a function to judge the reliability (a credit check) of the user who uses terminal 1 by referring to the account information database 3b. This judgment of the reliability of the user is performed with reference to an outstanding

10 amount of the bank account number registered in the account information database 3b, the information with respect to the user from the bank and the information with respect to the user from the credit loan company. In other words, it is judged whether this user has capacity to pay the charge or not. Then, the electronic check managing server 3a

15 creates the electronic check data, of which issue is demanded, and transmit this electronic check data to the user terminal 1 via the Internet 5 if it judges that the user has enough capacity to pay the charge. Thus, this electronic check data means a significant meaning for securing the safety in a commodity trading by using the commodity order system 100.

20 Alternatively, this electronic check data includes the information with respect to the charge of the commodity, the user terminal identifying code and the like. However, the electronic check data may include the same information as that of a normal check of a trading bank or the like.

Alternatively, in the case that the commodity selling office 25 identifying code is transmitted from the user terminal 1 together with the demand to issue the electronic check, a condition for creating the electronic check data may be constituted in such a manner it is

determined whether this commodity selling office identifying code is registered in the selling office information database 3c or not and the electronic check data may be created when this commodity selling office identifying code is determined to be registered in the selling office 5 information database 3c. Further, in the case that the distributing company identifying code is transmitted from the user terminal 1 together with the demand to issue the electronic check data, a condition for creating the electronic check data may be constituted in such a manner it is determined whether this distributing company identifying code is 10 registered in the distributing company information database 3d or not and the electronic check data may be created when this distributing company identifying code is determined to be registered in the distributing company information database 3d. Thus, not only the credit check of the user is performed, but also the credit check of the selling office and the 15 distributing company is performed. Then, if there is no problem, the electronic check data will be issued.

Alternatively, the electronic check managing server 3a has a function to perform an electronic payment when the commodity selling office server 2a issues the payment demand. For example, the electronic 20 check managing server 3a refers to the account information database 3b and specifies the account number of the user's trading bank from the user terminal identifying code included in the electronic check data. At the same time, referring to the selling office information database 3c, the electronic check managing server 3a specifies the account number of the 25 trading bank of the selling office from the commodity selling office identifying code and instructs the electronic paying system 6 of the banking establishment via the communication links to perform the

electronic payment for the charge of the commodity included in the electronic check data. Thus, the charge of the commodity included in the electronic check data is checked off from the account of the user's trading bank, so that this amount of money will be credited to the account of the 5 trading bank of the selling office. This electronic payment may be performed by the electronic paying system 6 of the banking establishment. Alternatively, the electronic check managing server 3a may be connected to the electronic paying system of a post office so that the electronic payment is performed by the electronic paying system of the 10 post office. Alternatively, the function of the electronic check managing site 3 may be constituted so as to be operated in the banking establishment and the credit loan company and it may be incorporated in the paying system of the banking establishment and the electronic paying system 7 of the credit loan company.

15 The distributing company site 4 is operated by the distributing company on the Internet 5 and it is provided with a distributing server 4a and a name master database 4b.

20 The name master database 4b associates the distributing company identifying code with a name of the distributing company with each other to accumulate (register) them.

25 The distributing server 4a controls the transmission and the reception of various information to and from the selling office site 2. Specifically, the distributing server 4a has a function to determine a distribution date and time of the commodity, a distributing vehicle of the commodity, a distributing route of the commodity and the like on the basis of the distribution address information transmitted from the

commodity selling office server 2a, and issue the distribution instruction of this commodity.

In the next place, the operation of the commodity order system 100 according to the present embodiment will be described with reference to

5 FIG. 2.

At first, the user terminal 1 has an access to the selling office site 2 via the Internet 5 and obtains the commodity information with respect to the mail order (S1). Thus, the home page of the selling office including the obtained commodity information is displayed on a monitor of the user 10 terminal 1. In the next place, the user selects a desired commodity from the home page displayed on the monitor of the user terminal 1 by using a mouse or the like and makes a demand for the electronic check managing server 3a on issuing the electronic check data corresponding to the charge of this commodity (S2). On the occasion of such a demand, the user 15 terminal 1 transmits the charge information of the commodity selected by the user, and the check issuing demanding information including the user terminal identifying code to the electronic check managing server 3a via the Internet 5. This check issuing demanding information may include the commodity selling office identifying code selected on the home page 20 displayed on the monitor, and the distributing company identifying code.

In the next place, the electronic check managing server 3a refers to the account information database 3b and performs a credit check (credit judgment) of the corresponding user on the basis of the user terminal identifying code transmitted from the user terminal 1 (S3). Then, in the 25 case that the electronic check managing server 3a judges that there is no problem with respect to the reliability of the user, the electronic check managing server 3a creates the electronic check data, of which issue is

demanded, and transmits the corresponding electronic check data to the user terminal 1 (S4). Alternatively, in the step S4, the electronic check managing server 3a may be configured in such a manner it may simply transmit a check ID to the user terminal 1 and then, it may issue the 5 electronic check data on the basis of the check ID. Such a configuration of the electronic check managing server 3a enables the security of the electronic check managing server 3a to be improved.

Alternatively, in the case that the user terminal 1 transmits the commodity selling office identifying code as described above, the electronic 10 check managing server 3a judges whether this commodity selling office identifying code is registered in the selling office information database 3c or not. Then, if it is registered, the electronic check managing server 3a creates the electronic check data. Further, in the case that the user terminal 1 transmits the distributing company identifying code, the 15 electronic check managing server 3a judges whether this distributing company identifying code is registered in the distributing company information database 3d or not. Then, if it is registered, the electronic check managing server 3a creates the electronic check data.

In the next place, the user terminal 1 transmits the electronic 20 check data and the commodity order information for ordering the commodity corresponding to this electronic check data to the commodity selling office server 2a via the Internet 5 (S5). Then, in the case that the commodity selling office server 2a receives the electronic check data and the commodity order information, it transmits the information for 25 indicating that the ordered commodity will be delivered to the user terminal 1 via the Internet 5 (S6).

In this case, if the commodity selling office server 2a receives the electronic check data, the commodity selling office server 2a has an access to the electronic check managing site 3 and judges the validity of this electronic check data by referring to the information database 3b. Then, if 5 it is judged that this electronic check data has the validity, the processing will shift to step S6. In the other words, the commodity selling office server 2a may be constituted in such a manner that, associating the information with respect to the user included in the foregoing electronic check data with the information included in the information database 3b, 10 the corresponding commodity is allowed to be sold in the only case that they correspond to each other. Such constitution of the commodity selling office server 2a enables the credit judgment of the electronic check managing server 3a and the validity judgment of the commodity selling office server 2a to be doubly checked, so that it is possible to further 15 improve the safety in the corresponding commodity trading.

Additionally, the commodity selling office server 2a makes a demand for payment of the charge of the corresponding commodity on the electronic check managing server 3a (S7). On the occasion of such a demand, the commodity selling office server 2a transmits the payment 20 demanding information including the electronic check data and the commodity selling office identifying code to the electronic check managing server 3a via the Internet 5. Then, as described above, the electronic check managing server 3a refers to the account information database 3b and the selling office information database 3c and it performs the 25 electronic payment on the basis of the electronic check data (S8).

Additionally, the commodity selling office server 2a transmits the information for indicating the distributing instruction of the commodity to

the user who uses the user terminal 1, to the distributing server 4a via the Internet 5 (S9). This information indicating the distributing instruction includes the commodity information corresponding to the commodity order information and the distribution address information of 5 the corresponding commodity. Alternatively, in the step S9, in spite of transmitting the information indicating the distributing instruction of the commodity from the commodity selling office server 2a to the distributing server 4a, the commodity selling office may transmit a covering letter made of paper to the distributing company in order to instruct the 10 distributing company to distribute the commodity.

In the next place, the distributing server 4a determines a distribution date and time of the commodity, a distributing vehicle of the commodity, a distributing route of the commodity and the like on the basis of the commodity information and the distribution address 15 information (S10). Further, the foregoing commodity is distributed to the user who used the user terminal 1 by the distributing vehicle under the instruction by the distributing server 4a. Alternatively, a PDS (Personal Digital Assistants) terminal and a GPS (Global Positioning System) are loaded in the vehicle for distributing the commodity, so that a coordinate 20 position (a latitude, a longitude) of the vehicle while moving is detected. The detected coordinate position is transmitted to the distributing server 4a via a wireless communication. The distributing server 4a receives the transmitted position information to determine the distributing situation 25 on the basis of this information (S11). Then, if the distributing server 4a determines that the distribution of the commodity has been completed, namely, if the distributing vehicle arrives at the address of the user who uses the user terminal 1, the distributing server 4a transmits the

information indicating that the distribution of the commodity has been completed to the commodity selling office server 2a via the Internet 5 (S12). Thus, the commodity selling office server 2a recognizes that the ordered commodity has been reached the user in fact. Alternatively, in 5 the step S12, after the distributor who is getting on a vehicle handed over the commodity to the user in fact, the information indicating that the commodity has been distributed to the user may be transmitted to the distributing server 4a. After the distributing server 4a received such information, the distributing server 4a may transmit the information 10 indicating that the distribution of the commodity has been completed to the commodity selling office server 2a via the Internet 5.

Thus, on the occasion of performing the commodity trading on the Internet 5, the commodity order system 100 is capable of appropriately checking the credit of a buyer, a seller and, further, a distributor, so that 15 it is possible to secure the safety and the certainty of the commodity trading.

Alternatively, in place of the above steps S7 and S8, the following steps may be provided. In other words, in the case that the user terminal 1 receives the information indicating that the commodity will be 20 distributed, which is transmitted from the commodity selling office server 2a, the user terminal 1 will transmit the information indicating the payment of the charge of the corresponding commodity to the commodity selling office server 2a via the foregoing network. This information indicating the payment of the charge of the corresponding commodity 25 includes a method for paying the charge designated by the user, for example, a paying method such as payment by card, bank transfer, cash on delivery and the like. Additionally, the information indicating the

payment of the charge of the commodity may include an electronic payment, so that the charge will be paid by transmitting this information indicating the payment of the charge of the commodity from the commodity selling office server 2a. Alternatively, the electronic check data 5 may be printed by the instruction from the electronic check managing server 3a to treat the electronic check as a normal check, so that the selling office may accept the charge from the bank.

Alternatively, without providing the above steps S7 and S8, after the distributing server 4a transmitted the information indicating that the 10 distribution of the commodity has been completed to the commodity selling office server 2a via the Internet 5, the commodity selling office server 2a may demand the user terminal 1 to pay the charge of the commodity in step S12.

Alternatively, the processing in the above step S7 may be 15 constituted so as to be performed after the step S9 or the step S12. Such a constitution enables the protection for the user to be reinforced in the case that the commodity selling office site 2 is operated by an individual or a conformation, which approximates an individual.

Alternatively, in the step S12, the distributing server 4a may be 20 constituted so as to transmit the information indicating that the distribution of the commodity has been completed to the electronic check managing server 3a via the Internet 5. Such a constitution enables the protection for the user to be reinforced in the case that the commodity selling office site 2 is operated by an individual or a conformation, which 25 approximates an individual.

Alternatively, the present invention can be applied even in the case that the reliability of both of the seller and the buyer is low such as the

trading between individuals, so that it is possible to secure the safety and the certainty of the commodity trading. Additionally, the electronic check managing server 3a, the user terminal 1 and the commodity selling office server 2a may be connected by a dedicated circuit as a network.

5 As described above, according to the present invention, on the occasion of performing the commodity trading on the Internet, the commodity order system is capable of appropriately checking the credit of a buyer, a seller and, further, a distributor, so that it is possible to secure the safety and the certainty of the commodity trading for the use of the
10 network.

The entire disclosure of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-260088 filed on August 30, 2000 including the specification, claims, drawings and summary is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

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